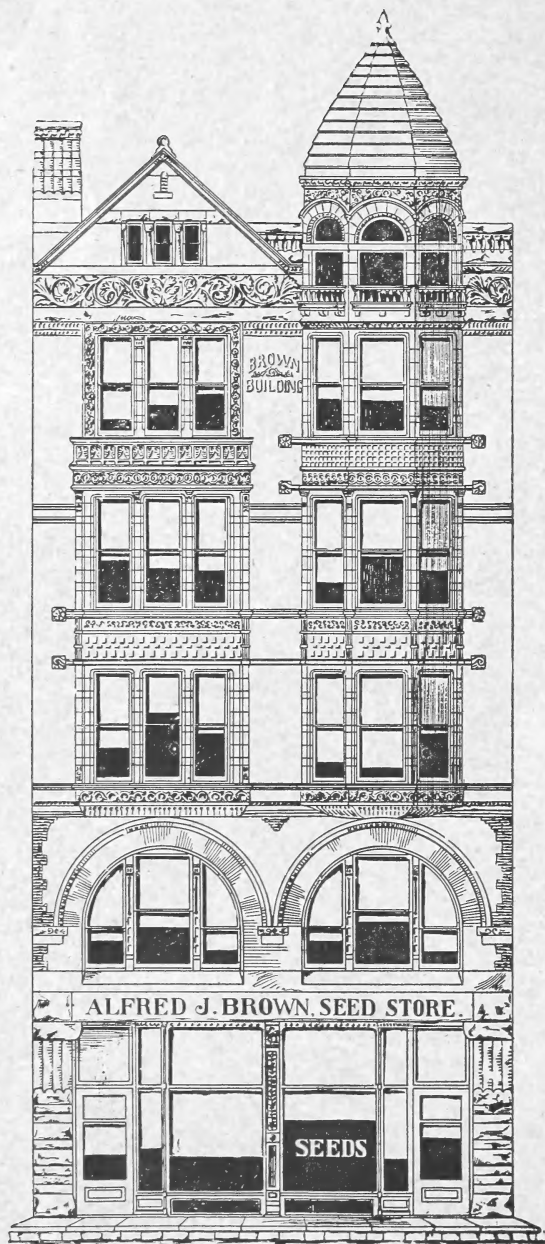


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1898
Alfred J. Brown
Seed Co.,
Growers and Merchants
Grand Rapids.
Mich.



SEEDS

GROWING IN PUBLIC FAVOR

Important

A good reputation is essential in any line of trade, but more especially is this true in the seed business, where so much depends upon honesty, integrity and actual knowledge. We have made a demand for our seeds, not by advertising them in showy catalogues and overdrawn illustrations, but by supplying seeds of unquestionable character, which have given satisfaction to the planter.

While we do not advocate low prices, believing the same have a tendency to seriously interfere with the high standard of quality, it is generally known that seeds of almost every description have not only been produced abundantly during the last two or three years, but they have been grown at less cost, and in consequence of this fact prices have been greatly reduced.

While this is true, it would be dangerous business to purchase cheap seeds which you might have reasons to doubt. And while it is only natural the consumer should wish to buy in the cheapest market, those who plant for profit will first consider quality.

The large surplus and bankrupt stocks of seed that have been thrown on the market have had a tendency to encourage some dealers to take hold of them and offer them at astonishingly low figures. But seeds of this character are most generally dear at any price. The planter who is looking towards the harvest has too much at stake. He cannot afford to take such chances. We aim to supply the best, regardless of the cost of production, and find it more satisfactory, by exercising great care in producing our stocks, than growing them in a careless way. An ever-increasing demand for our seeds is a sufficient guarantee of their popularity.

Very respectfully,

Alfred J. Brown Seed Co.

Please Note

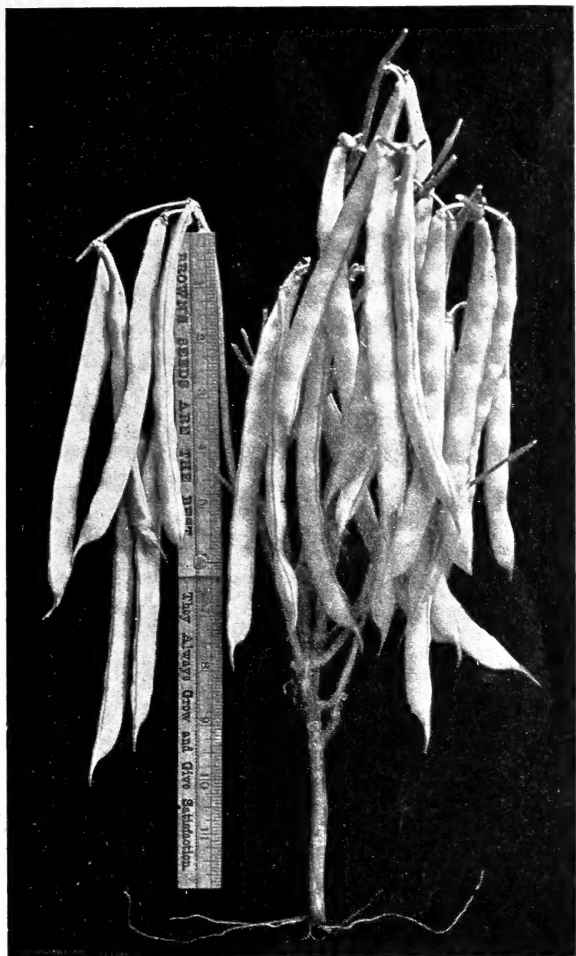


Although we do not solicit a mail trade, we do quite an extensive business in that line. The low prices named in this list will not enable us to pay postage on pounds, pints, quarts, etc.; but we will send ounces and packets of small seeds postpaid. For a general order of garden seeds amounting to \$5.00 and upwards we will prepay charges, but if heavy seeds are wanted, such as peas, beans, corn, etc., without a general order of small seeds, then the expense of express or freight charges must be paid by the purchaser.

Free. We do not charge for boxes or cartage; grain bags only are charged for, and these at cost.

Terms. All seeds are net cash. No discounts. Remittances can be sent at our risk in the shape of express money order, post-office money order, draft, registered letter, or postage stamps.

We Guarantee. The safe arrival of seeds sent either by mail, express or freight.



DAVIS KIDNEY WAX.

The most productive Early Wax Bean in cultivation. It is the best Wax Bean for market, yields more; is larger and handsomer, earlier, and brings more money. The dry beans are excellent for baking, and have a commercial value.

We came in possession of this valuable bean in 1892, buying the entire stock of the originator, Eugene Davis. The seed we offer can be fully relied upon.

DWARF WAX SORTS.

	Qt.	Pk.	Bu.
Davis Kidney Wax.....	25c	90c	\$3 00
Wardwell's Kidney Wax..	20c	75c	2 50
Dwarf Golden Wax	20c	75c	2 50
Improved Golden Wax..	20c	75c	2 50
Detroit Wax.....	20c	75c	2 50
Golden Eyed Wax.....	20c	75c	2 50
Black Eyed Wax.....	20c	75c	2 75
Speckled Butter Wax ...	20c	75c	2 50
Challenge Black Wax ..	25c	90c	3 00
German Black Wax	25c	90c	3 00
Currie's Rust-proof Wax.	25c	90c	3 00

Burpee's Bush Lima.

Burpee's Bush Lima Comes Absolutely True from Seed.

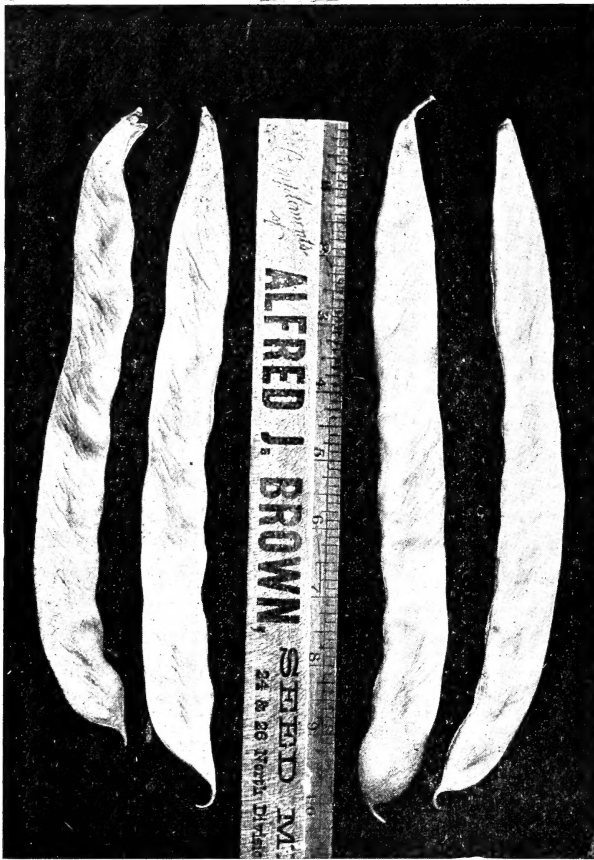
The bushes grow eighteen to twenty inches high, of stout growth and always erect, yet *branching so vigorously* that each plant develops into a magnificent circular bush *from two feet to three feet in diameter*. The leaves are of very large size and great substance. The bush character is thoroughly established, not one plant in a thousand showing any disposition to "run." The thickness of the main stalk and branches of the plant, as also the unusual size, healthy green color, and thick, leathery substance of the leaves, indicate the strong constitution of this variety, by which it is enabled to bear large crops, and also a sure cropper. It is an *immense yielder*, each bush bearing from fifty to two hundred of the handsome large pods, well filled with very large beans, which are *identical in size and luscious flavor to the well known large pole Limas*.



NEW DUTCH CASE KNIFE.

A decided improvement of great value. This new bean has been sought for in the home market and promises to become a great favorite. The pods are extremely large, tender, and fine flavor. The plant is productive and continues to bear long after other case knife beans are done. It is the best for market purposes and the home garden alike. The limited quantity of seed we possess will not permit us to offer it except by the packet.

**Price, 15c per Packet.
Six Packets for 75c.**



NEW DUTCH CASE KNIFE.

CHALLENGE BLACK WAX.

Unquestionably the BEST BLACK WAX or BUTTER BEAN in cultivation.

It is equally good for market and kitchen garden, being the earliest Black Wax sort.

Handsome round pods, of fine flavor, and the first to give a full crop.

Market gardeners find this a profitable bean to grow for early crop.



CHALLENGE DWARF BLACK WAX.



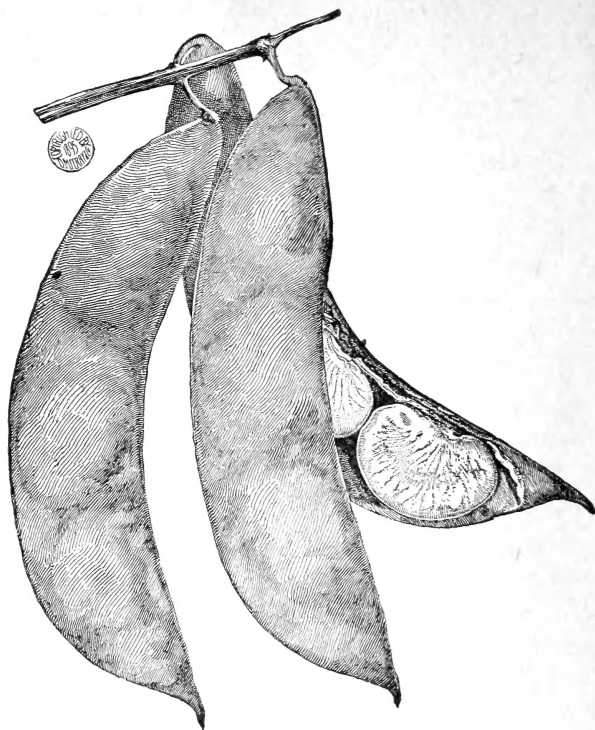
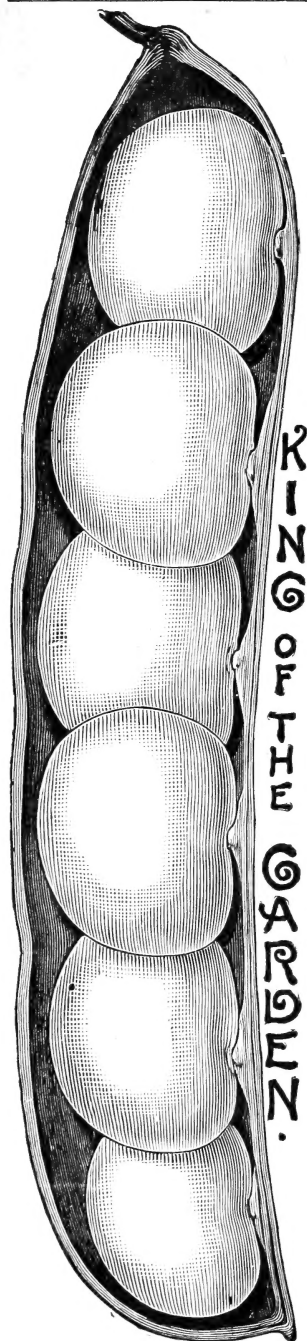
PHOTOGRAPH VIEW, FIELD SEED BEANS, DAVIS KIDNEY WAX.

BEANS.

CULTURE.

There is nothing that responds more readily to good cultivation and soil than beans. We advise fall plowing to insure the best success. The land that is best adapted to beans, is medium rich, well drained loam, which has been fertilized for a previous crop. As the plant is sensitive to both cold and wet, they should not be planted until the ground has become dry and warm. While the largest returns are obtained from planting in drills from two to three feet apart, good results may be had from planting in hills two feet apart each way. In this way the crop can be kept clean at less expense. It is not necessary to give the bean crop deep cultivation. If the ground is kept clean up till the time of blossoming, and the season favorable, success is sure. It is detrimental to the crop to cultivate after beans begin to set, as it will cause them to blast and injure the crop to a large extent.

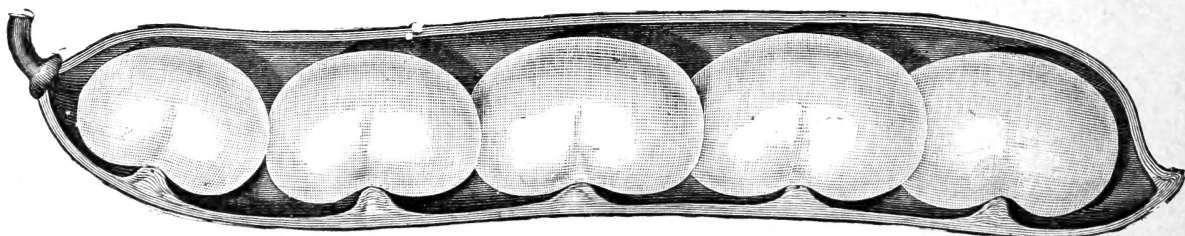
	Qt.	Pk.	Bu.
Early Red Valentine.....	15c	75c	\$2 50
Extra Early Refugee	15c	70c	2 40
Refugee, or 1,000 to 1	15c	70c	2 40
Best of All	15c	80c	2 75
Long Yellow Six Weeks	15c	75c	2 50
China Red Eye	15c	65c	2 25
Dwarf Horticultural.....	15c	75c	2 50
Early Mohawk	15c	65c	2 00
Boston Favorite.....	15c	70c	2 25
Improved Tree Bean.....	10c	60c	2 00
Improved Yellow Eye.....	15c	70c	2 50
White Kidney	10c	60c	2 00
Red Kidney	10c	65c	2 25
Yellow Swede	10c	60c	2 00



SIEBERT'S EARLY LIMA.

The Earliest of the Large Limas. Very Hardy and Productive.

	Qt.	Pk.	Bu.
London Horticulture.....	25c	\$1 10	\$4 00
Dutch Case Knife.....	25c	1 25	4 50
Kentucky Wonder.....	25c	1 40	5 00
Early Jersey Lima.....	25c	1 40	5 00
King of the Garden Lima.....	25c	1 40	5 00
Siebert's Early Lima.....	30c	1 60	6 00
Burpee Bush Lima.....	25c	1 40	5 00
Henderson's Bush Lima.....	20c	1 00	3 75



EXTRA EARLY JERSEY LIMA.

SELECTED BEET SEED

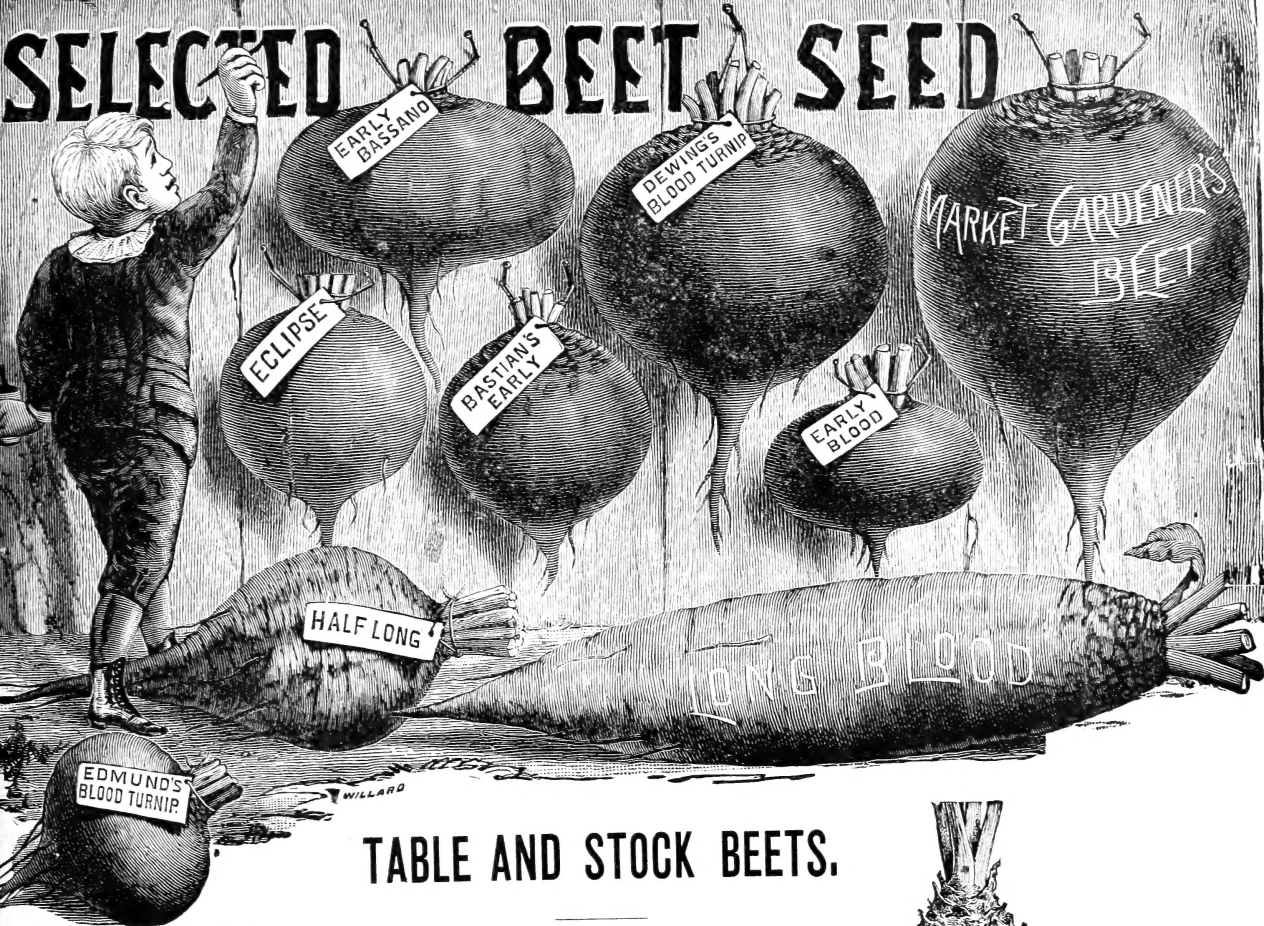
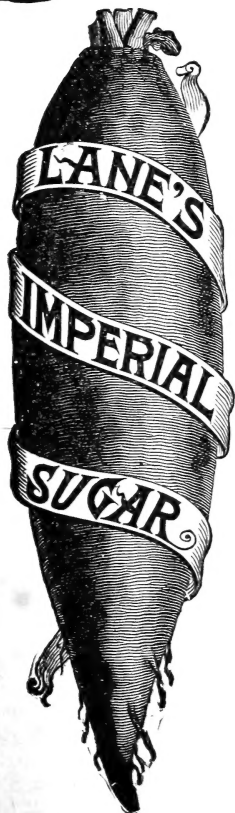


TABLE AND STOCK BEETS.



	Per Lb.		10 Lbs.	
Egyptian Blood Turnip....	\$0	35	\$0	30
Eclipse		35		30
Crosby's Early Egyptian ...		50		40
Early Bassano		35		30
Bastain's Early Turnip		30		25
Early Blood Turnip		30		25
Edmond's Blood Turnip....		35		30
Dewing's Turnip.....		30		25
Bastain's Half Long.....		35		30
Long Blood Red		30		25
Swiss Chard		30		25
Imperial Sugar (Laing's) ...		25		20
French Yellow Sugar.....		25		20
White French Sugar.....		25		20
Valmorin's Imperial Sugar..		25		20

MANGEL WURZEL.

Carter's Mammoth Long Red	25	20
Golden Tankard.....	25	20
Red Globe.....	25	20
Carter's Imperial Orange Globe	25	20



Carter's Mammoth Long Red
Mangel Wurzel.



SPECIMENS OF SUMMER AND EARLY WINTER VARIETIES.

When it is known that three ounces of good seed will produce enough plants for an acre of ground, we cannot too strongly urge the great importance of obtaining the best seed. Our stocks are grown by men of long experience and have always proved satisfactory.

We might mention a few varieties which are profitable to grow. For early crop we favor the Early Jersey Wakefield, succeeded by Early Summer and Flat Dutch. For Fall and Winter we strongly recommend such varieties as Premium Flat Dutch, Stone Mason, Hollander, and Danish Round Winter.

To be successful in growing cabbage the ground must be rich and the cultivation thorough.

BORECOLE, OR KALE.

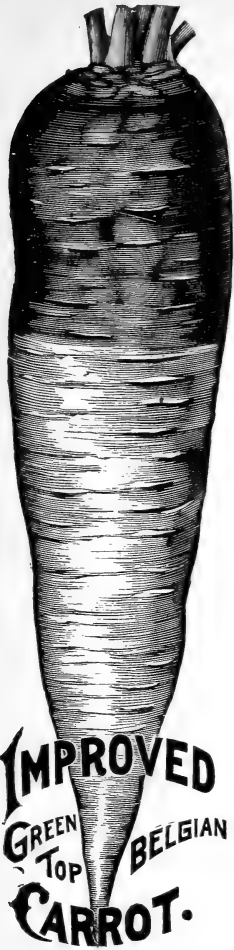
	Oz.	$\frac{1}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.
Borecole, Dwarf German Greens or Sprouts	\$0 05	\$0 15	\$0 50
Dwarf Green Curled Scotch	5	15	50
Dwarf Purple Kale	5	15	50
Tall Green Curled Scotch	5	15	40

CABBAGE.

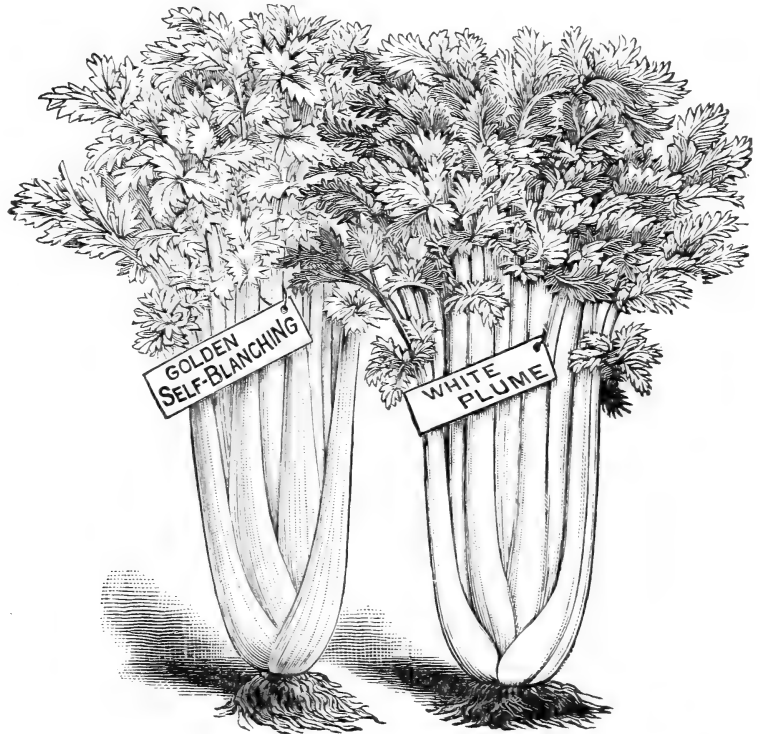
Early Jersey Wakefield, Finest	20	60	1 75
Large Wakefield	20	50	1 75
Earliest Etamps	10	25	90
Extra Early Express	15	30	1 00
Early Winningstadt	15	30	1 00
Early Dwarf York	10	25	90
Early Large York	10	25	90
Henderson's Early Summer	15	35	1 25
Henderson's Succession	15	30	1 00
Fottler's Improved Brunswick	15	35	1 25
All Seasons	15	35	1 25
Burpee's All Head	15	40	1 50
Early Flat Dutch	15	35	1 25
Premium Flat Dutch	10	30	1 00
Large Late Drumhead	15	35	1 15
Marblehead Mammoth	15	35	1 10
Danish Round Winter	30	90	3 00
Hollander, New	30	90	3 00
Lupton, New	20	50	1 75
Filderkraut	15	40	1 25
Louisville Drumhead	15	40	1 25
Burpee's Surehead	20	60	1 75
Stone Mason Marblehead	15	40	1 25
Savoy Imperial American	15	40	1 25
Early Blood Red	15	40	1 25
Mammoth Rock Red	20	50	1 75

CARROTS.

FOR TABLE AND STOCK.

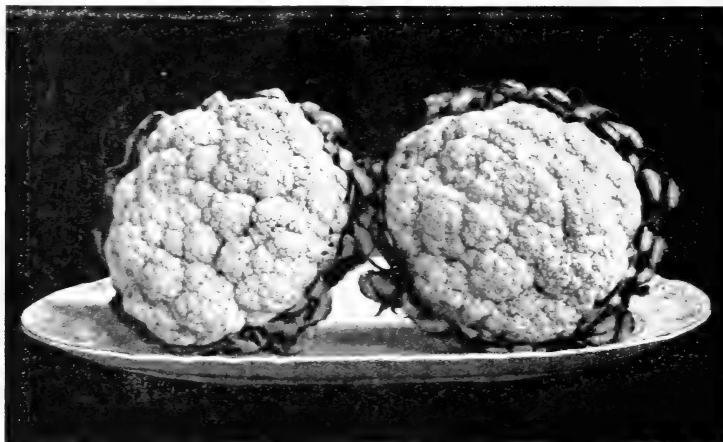


	Oz.	$\frac{3}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.
Early Forcing	\$0 10	\$0 20	\$0 60
Early Short Horn	10	20	60
Danvers Half Long	10	20	50
Long Orange	10	20	45
Gurrande, or Oxheart	10	20	50
Half Long Scarlet Stump Rooted	10	20	50
Chantenay Stump Rooted	10	20	50
Nantes Half Long	10	20	50
Intermediate Pointed	10	20	50
Mammoth White Intermediate	10	20	50
Giant White Belgian	5	15	40
Orange Belgian Green Top	5	15	40



CELERY.

	Oz.	$\frac{3}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.		Oz.	$\frac{3}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.
Golden Self Blanching ...	\$0 20	\$0 60	\$2 00	Dwarf White Solid	\$0 15	\$0 40	\$1 50
White Plume	15	45	1 50	Crawford's Half Dwarf ..	15	35	1 25
Pink Plume	15	50	1 60	Dwarf Golden Heart	15	35	1 25
Giant Pascal	15	50	1 50	Boston Market	15	35	1 25
Kalamazoo	15	50	1 75	Celeriac or Turnip Rooted	15	30	1 00
New Rose	15	50	1 50	Celery Seed for Flavoring	5	15	50
Perfection Heartwell	15	35	1 25				

**CUCUMBERS.**

	Oz.	¼ Lb.	Lb.
Early Russian	\$0 5	\$0 15	\$0 40
Short Green	5	15	35
Early Frame	5	15	40
Early Green Cluster	5	15	40
Early White Spine	5	15	35
Boston Pickling	5	15	35
Chicago Pickling	5	15	35
Long Green Improved ..	5	15	40
Livingston's Evergreen ..	5	15	40
West India Gherkin	10	25	70

EGG PLANT.

Improved New York Purple	25	90	3 00
Long Purple	15	50	1 50
Round Purple	15	60	1 75

ENDIVE.

Green Curled	10	25	75
Moss Curled	10	25	75

GOURDS.

Sugar Trough	15	40	1 25
Dipper	15	40	1 25
Dish Cloth	15	40	1 25
Japanese Nest Egg	15	40	1 25

KOHL RABI.

Large Early Purple.	15	50	1 50
Early White Vienna	15	50	1 50

LEEK.

Broad London Flag	10	25	75
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CAULIFLOWER.

	Pkt.	¼ Oz.	Oz.
Henderson's Early SnowBall	25	75	2 50
Erfurt Earliest Dwarf ...	15	50	1 75
Dwarf Erfurt	10	25	75

CRESS.

	Oz.	¼ Lb.	Lb.
Broad Leaved	10	20	50
Curled or Pepper Grass ..	5	15	30
Water Cress	20	65	2 50

CORN SALAD.

Broad Leaved	5	15	50
Large Seeded	5	15	50

SWEET CORN.

	Qt.	4 Qt.	Pk.	Bu.
Extra Early Cory White Cobb	15c	40c	70c	\$2 50
Extra Early Cory Red Cobb	15c	40c	60c	2 25
Early Minnesota	15c	35c	50c	2 00
Crosby's Early	15c	40c	60c	2 25
Perry's Hybrid	15c	40c	60c	2 25
Moor's Early Concord ..	15c	40c	60c	2 25
Old Colony	15c	40c	60c	2 25
Potter's Excelsior	15c	40c	60c	2 25
Black Mexican	15c	40c	60c	2 25
Stowell's Evergreen	15c	35c	60c	2 25
Livingston's Evergreen ..	15c	40c	70c	2 50
Mammoth Sugar	15c	35c	70c	2 50
Country Gentleman ...	15c	40c	70c	2 50
Zig-Zag Evergreen	15c	40c	70c	2 50
Egyptian	15c	35c	60c	2 25



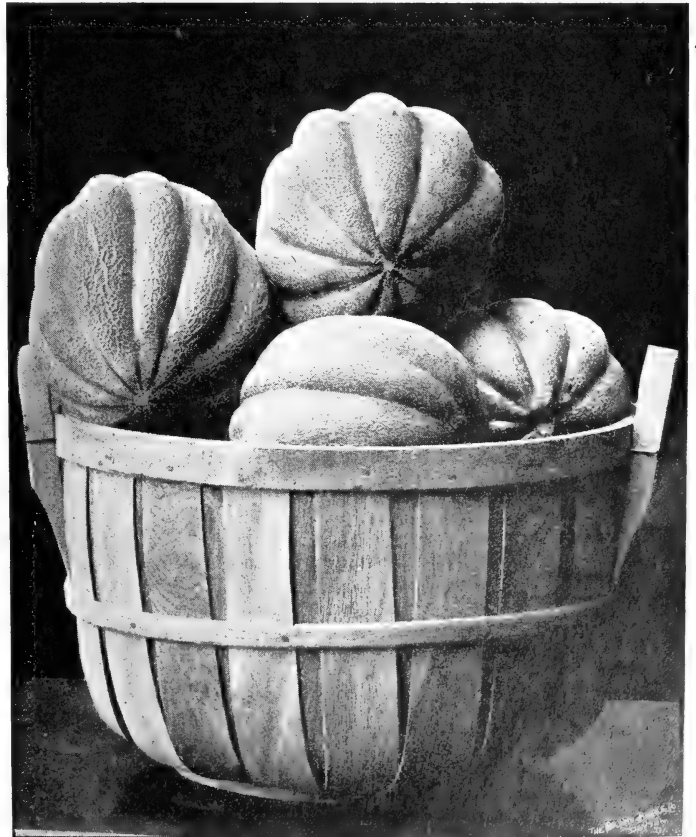
GRAND RAPIDS FORCING.

LETTUCE.

	Oz.	¼ Lb.	Lb.
Premium Cabbage	10c	25c	\$0 70
Salamander	10c	25c	75
Early Curled Silesia	10c	25c	75
Hanson	10c	25c	70
Grand Rapids Forcing (original)	15c	50c	1 50
White Cabbage	10c	25c	70
Early Tennis Ball	10c	25c	75
Early Curled Simpson	10c	25c	70
Black Seeded Simpson	10c	25c	70
Prize Head	10c	25c	75
Denver Market	10c	30c	80
Buttercup	10c	30c	80
Brown Dutch	10c	25c	75

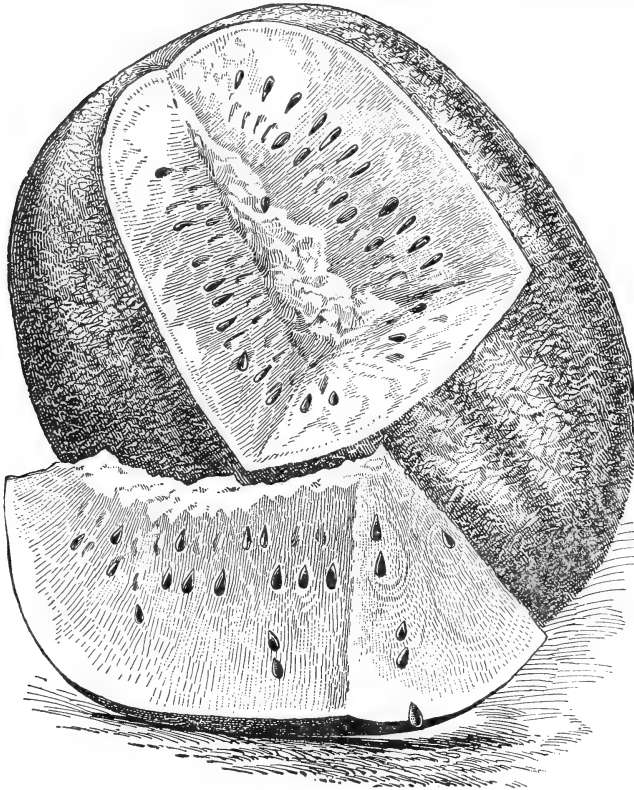
MUSKMELONS.

	Oz.	¼ Lb.	Lb.
Grand Rapids Early			
Market	10c	20c	\$0 60
The Princess	5c	15c	40
Baltimore or Acme	5c	15c	40
Improved Large			
Green Nutmeg	5c	15c	40
Bay View	5c	15c	40
Banquet	10c	20c	50
The Osage	10c	25c	50
The Osage "Extra			
Select Strain"	15c	40c	1 00
Extra Early Hackensack	5c	15c	40
Large Hackensack	5c	15c	40
Bird Cantelope	5c	15c	40
Montreal Nutmeg	5c	15c	40
Cosmopolitan	10c	20c	60
Emerald Gem	5c	15c	40
Surprise	5c	15c	40
Netted Gem	5c	15c	40



GRAND RAPIDS EARLY MARKET.

WATERMELON.



SWEET HEART.

	Oz.	¼ Lb.	Lb.
Sweetheart, "One of the Finest".....	10c	20c	50c
Vick's Early.....	5c	15c	40c
Mountain Sweet	5c	15c	40c
Florida Favorite.....	5c	15c	40c
Phiney's Early.....	5c	15c	40c
Cuban Queen.....	5c	15c	40c
Kolb Gem.....	5c	15c	40c
Peerless	5c	15c	40c
Mammoth Iron Clad..	5c	15c	40c
Round Light Icing ...	5c	15c	40c
Dark Icing	5c	15c	40c
Mountain Sprout.....	5c	15c	40c
Black Spanish	5c	15c	40c
Citron, "for Preserves"	5c	15c	40c
Mustard White English	5c	10c	25c
Mustard Black.....	5c	15c	40c

NASTURTIUM.

	Oz.	¼ Lb.	Lb.
Tall, Mixed Colors.....	10c	25c	80c
Dwarf, Mixed Colors.....	10c	25c	80c

MUSHROOMS.

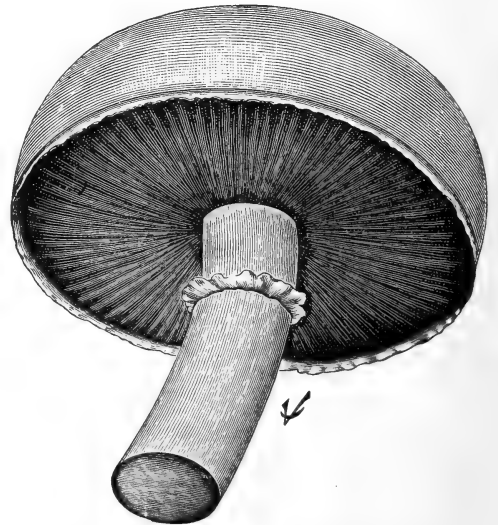
A fresh supply constantly on hand.
Best English Spawn.

Price per pound, 12½ cents. Per 100 pounds, \$8.50.

Mushrooms can be successfully and profitable grown on greenhouse benches, in frames in the greenhouse, under greenhouse benches, among other plants on greenhouse benches, as well as in the open fields, or in cellars or outhouses.

When it is considered that good Mushrooms are bringing from 50c. to 75c. per pound at wholesale, that a Mushroom bed will continue bearing for a long period, and that the first cost of making the bed in spawn, manure and labor is not heavy, the advantage of adding the Mushrooms as a profitable crop will be apparent.

Culture.—Mushrooms can be grown in any dark room or cellar, where the temperature can be maintained at from 50 to 60 degrees. From some old pasture, procure the soil and store it away. To one bushel of this soil add two bushels of fresh horse manure. On this well mixed compound prepare a bed, say four feet in width. Put down a thin layer and pound it down hard, and go on until you have a bed eight inches thick. It will soon become pretty hot, but let the heat recede until it is only 85 or 90 degrees. Then make holes, say a foot apart, and put in the spawn, two or three pieces as large as a walnut in each hole. Cover the hole and press the soil solid and smooth. Let the bed remain in this condition about twelve days; then cover the bed with some two inches of fresh loam, and over this four or five inches of hay or straw, and the work is done. If the temperature is right, in six or eight weeks you may expect Mushrooms. The bed will continue bearing from twenty to thirty days. After the first crop is gathered, spread over the bed an inch of fresh soil, moisten with warm water, and cover with hay as before. Success in Mushroom growing depends so much upon a proper and uniform temperature, moisture, and perhaps other conditions of the atmosphere, that success is not always certain with the amateur. One pound of spawn is enough for a bed two feet by six.



ONIONS--American Grown.

	Oz.	¼ Lb.	Lb.
Extra Early Flat Red..	10c	25c	\$0 60
Early Red Globe.....	10c	25c	70
Southport Red Globe..			75
Yellow Globe Danvers..	10c	20c	60
Yellow Strasburg.....	10c	20c	50
Large Yellow Dutch..	10c	20c	50
Michigan Yellow Globe..	10c	25c	70
Southport Yellow Globe..	10c	25c	65
Large Red Wethersfield..	10c	25c	70
Mammoth Prize Taker..	15c	35c	1 25
White Globe.....	15c	35c	1 25
White Portugal.....	15c	35c	1 25
Silverskin.....	15c	35c	1 25
Southport White Globe..	15c	35c	1 25

PARSNIPS.

	Lb.
Long Hollow Crown.....	40c
Long White Dutch.....	40c



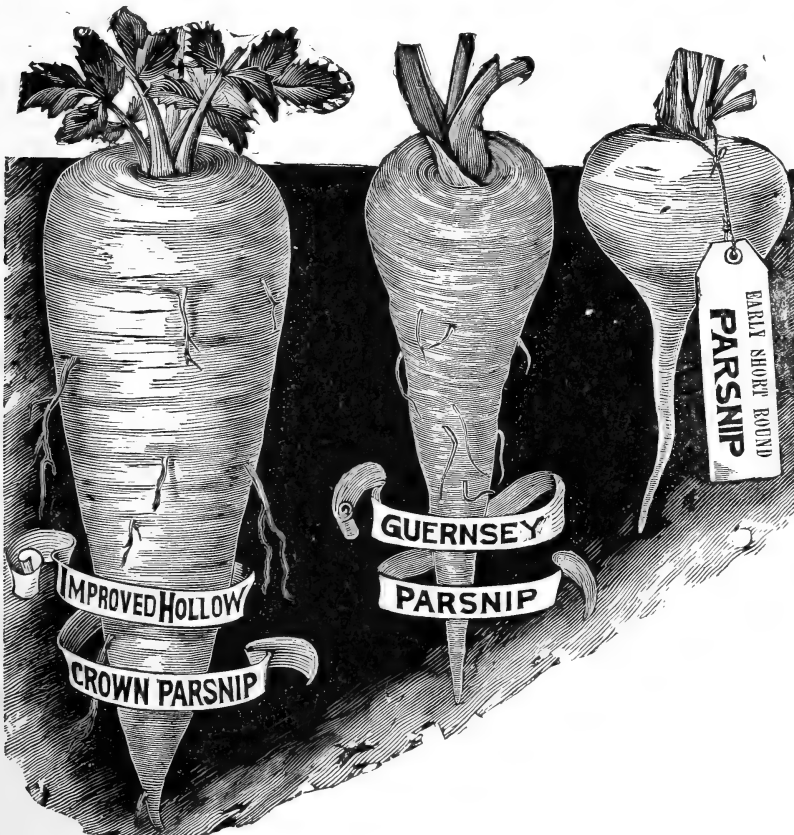
MAMMOTH PRIZETAKER.

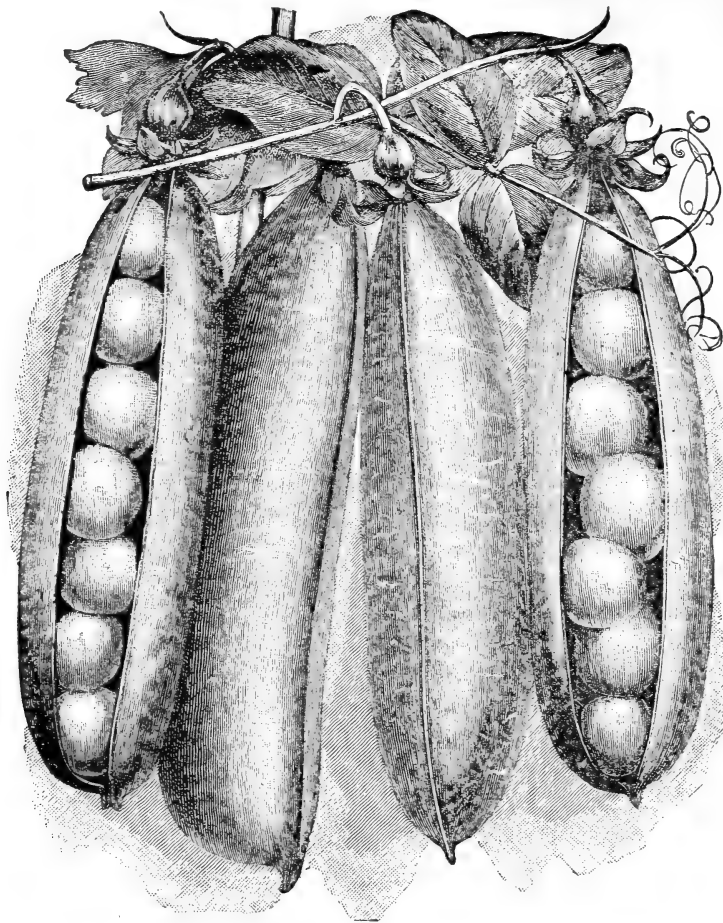
ONION SEED.

Culture.—The Onion must have a clean and very rich soil. Use well rotted manure freely, and be sure to get the seed in as early as possible in the spring, no matter if it is ever so cold and unpleasant, for if Onions do not get a good growth before hot, dry weather, the crop is sure to be a failure. Thin out early and keep the soil mellow and clear of weeds. Sow in shallow drills, not less than a foot apart, and thin out when the young Onions are about the size of quills. In doing this, disturb those that remain as little as possible. As Onions grow on top of the ground, they may be allowed to remain pretty thick, no matter if they crowd each other. In hoeing to destroy weeds and keep the ground mellow, do not cover the young bulbs with earth. Four pounds of seed are usually required for an acre.

In cold or mucky soils, where the Danvers or Wethersfield varieties will not form bulbs, the Early Red should be tried, and will often succeed while others fail. It is an excellent variety and a good keeper.

The Onion is usually a very profitable and satisfactory crop, and it is only occasionally that the market is overstocked and the price low. It is useless, however, to try to grow Onions on poor, unsuitable soil or in a careless manner. Three days of neglect, when the weeds are growing rapidly, will sometimes ruin a crop, and a week too late in sowing often makes the difference between a good and bad harvest. For weeding we recommend the Planet Jr. Wheel Hoe, which we have found very effective. (See advertisement at end of this catalogue.) Manure for onions should be well rotted and placed on or near the surface. With proper manuring, Onions can be grown on the same land for a score of years, and it will become cleaner and better every year.





NOTT'S EXCELSIOR.

PEAS--Extra Early Sorts.

	Qt.	2 Qt.	4 Qts.	Pk.	Bu.
"Maud S".....	20c	35c	50c	\$0 75	\$2 75
New York Market.....	20c	35c	50c	75	2 75
Vick's Extra Early.....	20c	35c	50c	75	2 75
Landreth's Extra					
Early	20c	35c	50c	75	2 75
First and Best.....	20c	35c	50c	75	2 75
Alaska	20c	35c	50c	75	2 75
Early Kent.....	20c	35c	50c	70	2 50
Tom Thumb.....	25c	40c	65c	1 25	4 00

PEAS--Early Wrinkled Sorts.

Nott's Excelsior ...	25c	40c	65c	1 10	4 00
American Wonder..	25c	40c	65c	1 10	4 00
Wm. Hurst	25c	40c	65c	1 10	4 00
McLean's LittleGem	20c	35c	60c	1 00	3 50
Carter's Premium					
Gem.....	20c	35c	60c	1 00	3 50

PEAS.

SUBJECT TO MARKET FLUCTUATION.

Canada Field White.....	75c @	\$0 90
Canada Field Green.....	75c @	90
Scotch Field	80c @	1 00

PEAS--Main Crop Sorts.

	Qt.	2 Qts.	4 qts.	Pk.	Bu.
Champion of Eng-					
land	15c	25c	40c	\$0 75	\$2 50
Yorkshire Hero ...	20c	30c	50c	90	3 25
McLean's Advancer.....	25c	40c	60c	1 00	3 50
Bliss' Abundance ..	25c	40c	60c	1 00	3 50
Bliss' Everbearing ..	20c	35c	50c	80	3 00
Stratagem.....	25c	40c	70c	1 25	4 25
Shropshire Hero ...	25c	40c	70c	1 25	4 25
Horsford's Market..	25c	40c	60c	1 00	3 50
Sharp's Queen.....	25c	40c	70c	1 25	4 25
Telephone.....	20c	35c	60c	1 00	3 75
Pride of the Market.....	25c	40c	70c	1 25	4 50
Heroine.....	25c	40c	70c	1 25	4 50
Blue Imperial.....	20c	30c	50c	90	3 00
Large White Mar-					
rowfat	10c	15c	25c	40	1 50
Black Eye Marrow-					
fat	10c	15c	25c	40	1 50

PEAS--Edible Pods.

Tall Gray Sugar...	25c	40c	65c	1 10	4 00
Melting Sugar.....	25c	40c	70c	1 25	4 50
Dwarf Gray Sugar.....	20c	35c	60c	1 00	3 50



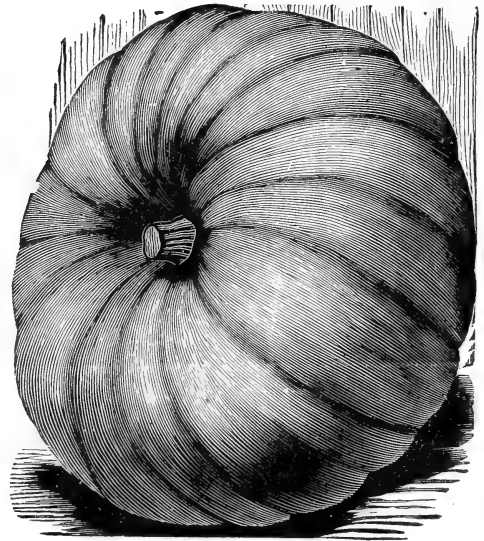
LARGE BULL NOSE PEPPER.

PEPPERS.

	Oz.	$\frac{1}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.
Ruby King	25c	75c	\$2 25
Golden Dawn	25c	75c	2 25
Sweet Mountain or Mam-			
moth	25c	75c	2 10
Large Bell or Bull Nose ..	25c	75c	2 10
Long Red Cayenne	25c	75c	2 25
Cherry Formed	25c	75c	2 25
Red Chili	25c	75c	2 25

PUMPKINS.

	Oz.	$\frac{1}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.
Nantucket	5c	15c	40c
Large Cheese	5c	15c	40c
Sugar	5c	15c	40c
Large Tours or Mammoth.....	5c	15c	50c
Mammoth Red Etamps	5c	15c	40c
Mammoth Yellow or Potiron	5c	15c	40c
Connecticut Field	5c	10c	25c



MAMMOTH YELLOW PUMPKIN.

PARSLEY.

	Oz.	$\frac{1}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.
Champion Moss Curled	10c	25c	50c
Fern Leaved	10c	25c	50c

RHUBARB.

	Oz.	$\frac{1}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.
Myatt's	10c	30c	\$1 00
Victoria	10c	30c	1 00
Linnaeus	10c	30c	1 00



VICK'S SCARLET GLOBE.



PHILADELPHIA WHITE BOX.

RADISH.

	Oz.	$\frac{3}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.
Carter's Express.....	\$0 10	\$0 25	\$0 75
Cincinnati Market.....	10	30	1 00
Vick's Scarlet Globe.....	10	20	60
Half Long Bright Scarlet.....	5	15	40
Scarlet Turnip.....	5	15	40
Early Round Dark Red.....	5	15	40
Long Scarlet Short Top.....	5	15	35
Wood's Early Frame.....	5	15	40
French Breakfast.....	5	15	40
Scarlet Olive Shape.....	5	15	40
Beckets Chartier.....	5	15	40
Philadelphia White Box.....	5	15	50
Early White Turnip.....	5	15	40
White Strasburg.....	5	15	50
Large White Summer.....	5	15	40
Long White Vienna.....	5	15	50

WINTER VARIETIES.

Chinese Rose or Scarlet China.....	10	20	60
California Mammoth White Winter.....	10	20	60
Long Black Spanish.....	5	15	40
Round Black Spanish.....	5	15	40
Large White Spanish.....	5	15	40
Half Long Black Winter.....	10	20	60

SPINACH.

	Oz.	$\frac{3}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.	5 Lbs. or more
Round Thick Leaved Summer.....	5c	10c	20c	15c
Victoria Long Standing.....	5c	15c	25c	20c
Bloomsdale or Savoy Leaved.....	5c	10c	20c	18c
Prickly or Fall.....	5c	10c	20c	15c

SALSIFY.

	Oz.	$\frac{3}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.
White French.....	10c	25c	75c
Mammoth Sandwich Island.....	10c	25c	75c



MAMMOTH WHITE BUSH SCALLOP.



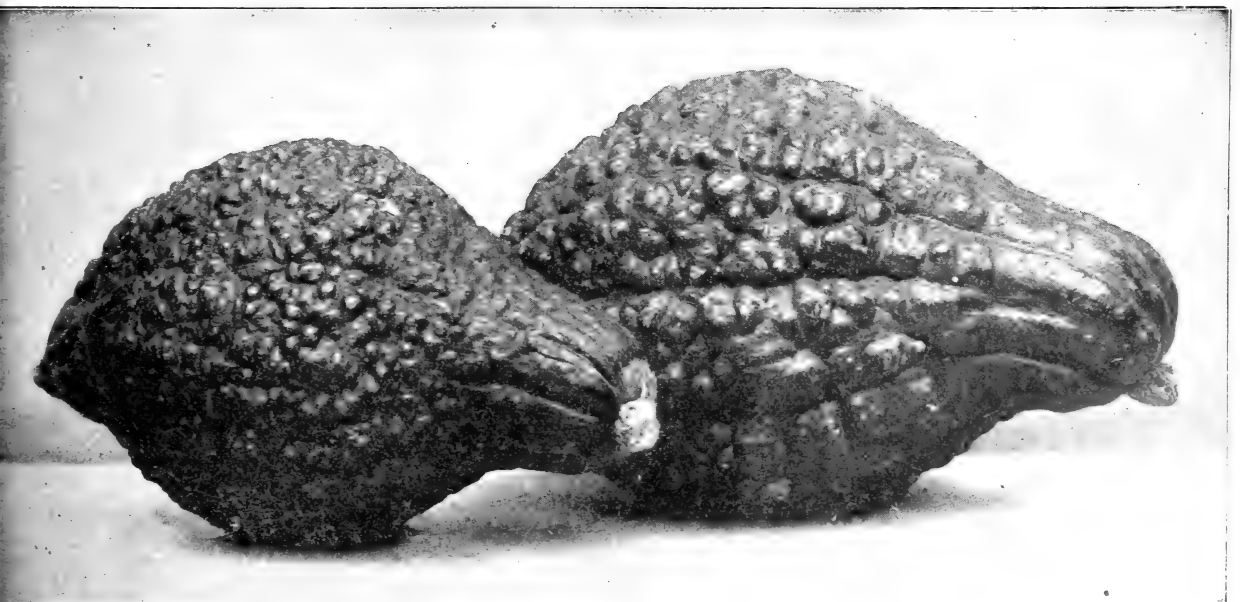
WHITE SUMMER CROOKNECK.

SQUASH—SUMMER VARIETIES.

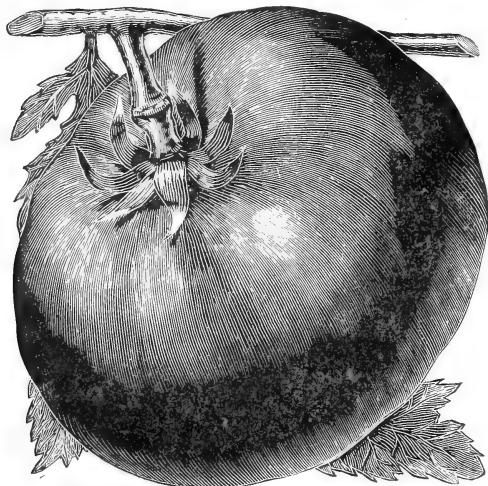
	Oz.	$\frac{3}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.
Mammoth White Bush	5c	15c	40c
White Summer Crookneck	5c	15c	50c
Yellow Bush Scallop.....	5c	15c	35c
Early White Bush Scallop.....	5c	15c	35c
Summer Crookneck	5c	15c	40c
Mammoth Summer Crookneck.	5c	15c	50c

SQUASH—WINTER VARIETIES.

	Oz.	$\frac{3}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.
Hubbard, True	5c	15c	40c
Marblehead	5c	15c	35c
Sibley, or Pike's Peak.....	5c	15c	40c
Boston Marrow	5c	15c	35c
Chicago Warted Hubbard.....	10c	20c	50c
Faxon	5c	15c	40c
Perfect Gem	5c	15c	40c
Essex Hybrid	5c	15c	40c
Bay State	5c	15c	40c



NEW WARTY HUBBARD



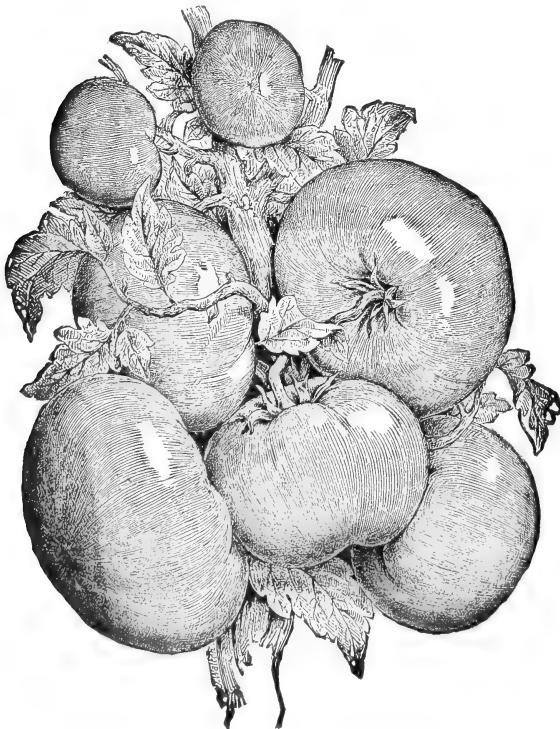
HONOR BRIGHT.



LIVINGSTON'S NEW HONOR BRIGHT TOMATO.

A PECULAR BRIGHT RED VARIETY, which first appeared in the form of a single "sport" plant in a large field of Livingston's Stone Tomato in 1894. ITS CHIEF PECULIARITIES are its **Solidity, Long-Keeping Qualities after being Picked**, and the remarkable **Changes of Color** the fruit undergoes during growth and ripening. These changes of color provide an easily learned guide to the proper time of picking. IT DIFFERS FROM EVERY OTHER TOMATO. The Color of the Fruit, when Fully Ripe, is a Rich, Bright Red, but before reaching this stage it undergoes several interesting changes. First it is **Light Green**, then an attractive **Waxy White**, then **Lemon, changing to Red**. One of the most attractive and handsome varieties grown, and well adapted for home use and market, and on account of its solidity and long-keeping qualities, it is especially recommended for shipping. It can be shipped in barrels, like apples, if picked in the early stage of ripening, and will keep from one to four weeks if stored in a cool place. The skin seems to be crack-proof, as, the past season, we had two crops—one on rich, highly manured upland, the other on rich river bottom land—and not a single tomato was found with a skin crack, even after the exceedingly heavy rains during the harvest. The Clusters bear three to five large, symmetrical fruits, on hard, woody stems, the fruit ripening very evenly from the blossom end to the stem. Its Table Qualities are excellent; the flesh, when ripe, being tender and melting, not hard, as one might conclude from the solidity of the uncut fruit. Those who grow it will find it a valuable acquisition, and will be surprised at its distinctness from all other known sorts.

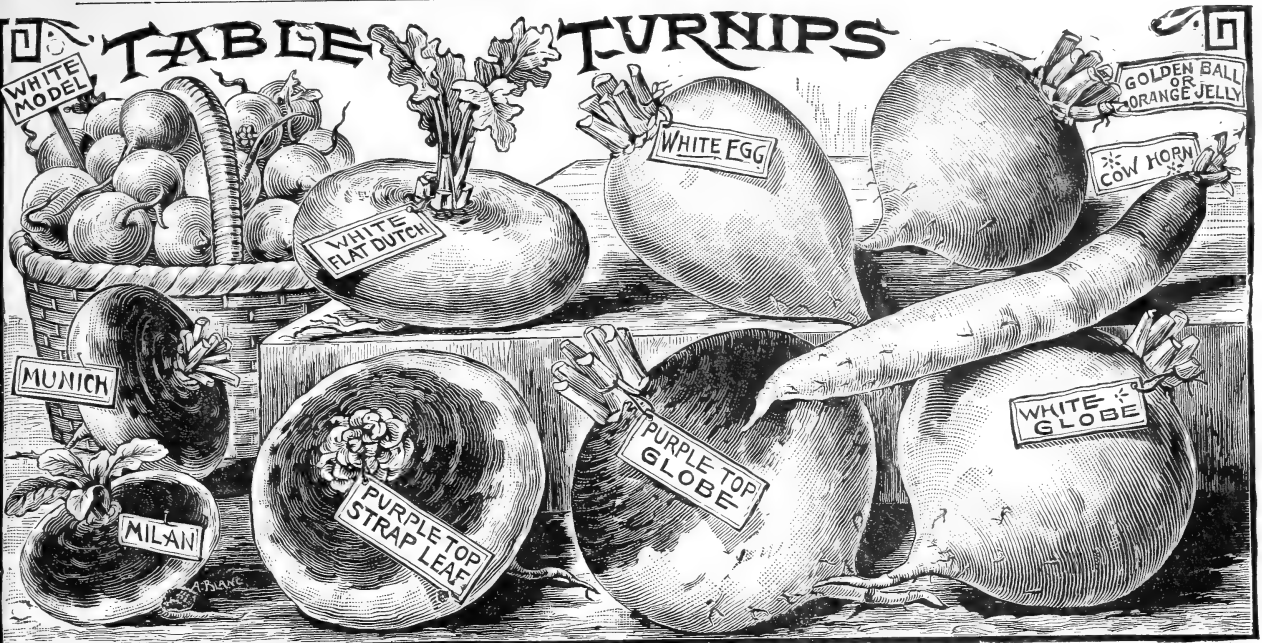
Per Oz. 40c. Packet 10c.



DWARF CHAMPION.

TOMATOES.

	Oz	¼ Lb.	Lb.
Livingston's Favorite.....	15c	40c	\$1 50
Livingston's Beauty.....	15c	40c	1 50
Livingston's Early Acme..	15c	40c	1 50
Livingston's Perfection ...	15c	40c	1 50
Livingston's Stone	15c	40c	1 50
Livingston's Aristocrat ...	15c	40c	1 50
Livingston's Buckeye State	15c	50c	1 75
Livingston's Golden Queen	15c	50c	1 75
Optimus	15c	40c	1 50
Ignotum	20c	40c	1 50
Paragon	15c	40c	1 50
Dwarf Champion	20c	60c	2 00
Trophy	15c	50c	1 75
Volunteer... ..	15c	40c	1 50
Mikado	20c	60c	2 00
Atlantic Prize.....	15c	50c	1 75
Matchless	25c	75c	2 50
Ponderosa	30c	1.00	3 75
Early Michigan	15c	40c	1 50
Red Cherry	20c	60c	2 00
Peach	20c	60c	2 00
Plume Shpe.....	20c	60c	2 00
Large Yellow	20c	60c	1 75



TURNIPS.

WHITE FLESHED SORTS.

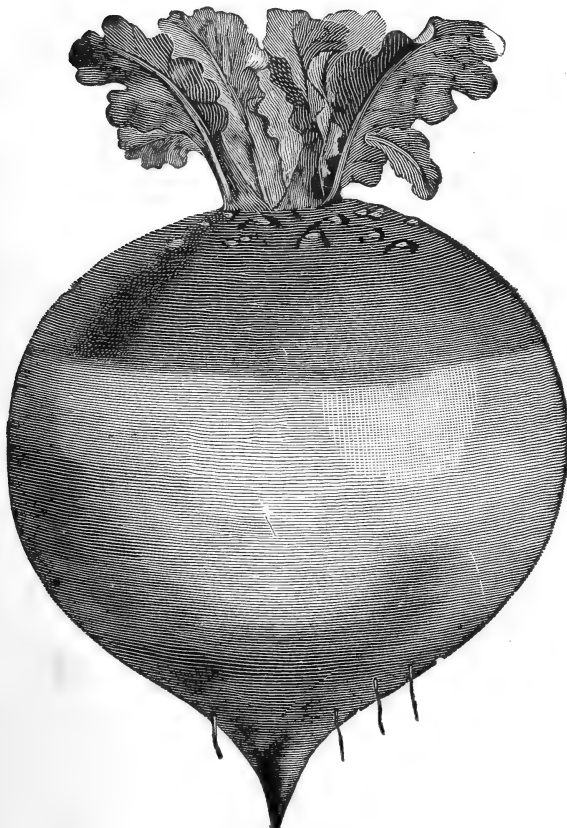
	Oz.	$\frac{1}{4}$ Lb.	Lb.
Early White Flat Dutch ...	5c	15c	\$0 40
Extra Early Purple Top			
Milan	10c	25c	75
White Egg	5c	15c	40
Early Purple Top Strap Leaf	5c	15c	40
Purple Top White Globe...	5c	15c	40
Early Purple Top Munich..	10c	20c	75
Large White Norfolk	5c	15c	40
Long White Cowhorn.....	5c	15c	40
Sweet German.....	5c	15c	40
Early White Stone	5c	15c	40

YELLOW FLESHED SORTS.

Green Top Yellow Aber-			
deen	5c	15c	35
Yellow Globe	5c	15c	35
Early Yellow Stone	5c	15c	40
Robertson's Golden Ball ...	5c	15c	35

RUTABAGA OR SWEDES.

American Purple Top, Finest	5c	15c	40
Carter's Imperial Purple Top	5c	15c	35
Hall's Westbury	5c	15c	35
Skirving's Liverpool.....	5c	15c	35
White Sweet Russian	5c	15c	35
Laing's Purple Top	5c	15c	40



AMERICAN PURPLE TOP RUTABAGA.

TOBACCO.

	Pkt.	Oz.		Pkt.	Oz.
Connecticut Seed Leaf	10c	25c	General Grant	10c	25c

SWEET HERBS.

	Pkt.	Oz.		Pkt.	Oz.
Anise.....	5c	10c	Rosemary	5c	30c
Basil, Sweet	5c	15c	Rue	5c	15c
Caraway for sowing	5c	10c	Saffron	5c	10c
Dandelion, Improved Thick Leaf.....	5c	30c	Sage, Broad Leaf.....	5c	20c
Dill	5c	10c	Savory, Summer	5c	10c
Fennel, Sweet.....	5c	10c	Tansy	5c	25c
Horehound	5c	20c	Thyme, English	5c	30c
Lavender	5c	10c	Wormwood	5c	20c
Marjoram	5c	15c			

BIRD SEED.

	Lb.	5 Lbs.		Lb.	5 Lbs.
Sunflower	10c	35c	Imported Millet	5c	15c
Canary	6c	25c	Mixed Bird Seed	6c	25c
Hemp	6c	25c	Wild Rice.....	20c	85c
Rape	7c	30c	Unhulled Rice	10c	40c

FLOWER SEEDS.

	Pkt.	Oz.		Pkt.	Oz.
Alyssum	\$ 05	\$0 30	Hollyhock, choicest mixed	\$0 5	\$1 00
Asters, all kinds	10	..	Job's Tears	5	25
Balsams, all kinds	10	..	Larkspur, mixed	5	30
Bachelor's Button	5	25	Love in Mist	5	20
Baloon Vine.....	5	25	Marigolds, various varieties	5	40
Begonia	10	..	Mignonette	5	25
Candy Tuft.....	5	..	Moon Flower.....	5	75
Carnations, various kinds	10	..	Morning Glory, mixed colors	5	10
Canna, French Large Flowering ..	10	..	Nasturtium (see vegetable list) ...		
Cyprus Vine.....	5	..	Pansy, choice mixed	10	..
Cobaea Scandens.....	5	..	Phlox Drummondii	10	..
Castor Bean	5	10	Poppy, double white.....	5	20
Chrysanthemum, mixed	5	40	Poppy, mixed colors	5	20
Coxcomb	10	..	Pink, China double mixed	5	40
Daisies, double.....	10	..	Portulaca, single flowered.....	5	40
Daisies, mixed	5	..	Portulaca, double flowered	10	..
Dahlia, double mixed.....	10	..	Primrose, evening.....	5	20
Forget-me-not	5	75	Snapdragon, finest mixed	5	40
Four O'clocks, mixed	5	25	Smilax	5	40
Heliotrope, dark mixed colors	10	..			

SWEET PEAS.

Our list of Sweet Peas comprises some of the choicest varieties to be had, which are grown by men of long experience. The quality is unsurpassed by any house in the trade.

	Oz.	¼ Lb.	Lb.		Oz.	¼ Lb.	Lb.
Indigo King	5c	15c	50c	Scarlet Stripe	5c	15c	50c
Apple Blossom	5c	15c	50c	Cardinal	5c	15c	50c
Adonis	5c	15c	50c	Dorothy Tennant.....	10c	20c	60c
Princess Victoria	5c	15c	50c	Queen of the Isles	5c	15c	50c
White	5c	15c	50c	Blanch Ferry	5c	15c	50c
Queen of England	5c	15c	50c	Primrose	5c	15c	50c
Duke of Clarence.....	10c	20c	60c	Fancy Mixed.....	5c	15c	50c
Blushing Beauty.....	5c	15c	50c	Gaiety	10c	20c	60c
Princess Beatrice	5c	15c	50c	Princess of Wales.....	5c	15c	50c
Vesuvius	5c	15c	50c	Tricolor	5c	15c	50c
Purple	5c	15c	50c	Countess of Rednor.....	5c	15c	50c
Captain of the Blues	5c	15c	50c	Orange Prince.....	5c	15c	50c
Duchess of Edinburgh	5c	15c	50c	Splendor	5c	15c	50c
Mrs. Gladstone	5c	15c	50c	Choice Mixed.....	5c	10c	30c



SEED EXHIBIT, STATE FAIR, 1896.



HOLT'S EARLY MAMMOTH.

SEED CORN.

	Per Bu.
Holt's Early Mammoth	\$1 25
White Face Dent	1 00
Seymour Dent	90
Pony Dent	1 00
Hathaway Dent	1 00
Pride of the North Dent	90
King of the Earlies	1 00
Minnesota King	1 00
Eight Rowed Yankee	1 00
Pop Corn, White Rice	1 25

FODDER CORN.

	Per Bu.
Red Cob Ensilage (True)	\$0 75
Red Cob Ensilage (True), 10 bu. lots	\$7 00
Leaming	65
Leaming, 10 bu. lots	6 00
Stowell's Evergreen	1 00
Minnesota	1 00

SEED GRAIN.

	Per Bu.	
Spring Rye	\$0 90 @ \$1 00	
Fall Rye	60 " 70	
Two-Rowed Barley..	75 " 80	
Six-Rowed Barley....	75 " 80	
Buckwheat, Common.	60 " 70	
Buckwheat, Japanese .	65 " 75	
Buckwheat, Silver Hull	65 " 75	
Oats, American Banner	50	
Oats, White Welcome.....	50	
Oats, White Russian.....	50	
Oats, Lincoln "New".....	60	
Oats, White Belgian "New"	50	

GRASS SEEDS

Used in Meadows, Pastures and Lawns.

	Per Lb.	
Fancy Red Top	\$0 18 @ \$0 20	
Meadow Fox Tail...	30 " 35	
True Perennial Sweet		
Vernal.....	30 " 40	
Tall Meadow Oat		
Grass	18 " 20	
Hard Fescue	18	
Sheep Fescue.....	18	
Perennial Rye Grass.....	10	
Crested Dog's Tail.....	25	
Meadow Soft Grass.....	20	
Creeping Bent Grass	25	
Meadow Fescue	12	
Tall Fescue	25	
Meadow Brome Grass.....	20	
Fine Leaved Fescue.....	30	



CRIMSON CLOVER.

MILLET AND HUNGARIAN GRASS.

	Per Bu.			Per Bu.	
Common Millet, choice	\$0 50 @ \$0 60	True Southern German	\$1 00 @ \$1 25		
Common Millet, prime.....	45 " 50	Broom Corn Millet.....	80 " 90		
German Millet, choice	65 " 75	Imported Golden Millet....	85 " 90		
German Millet, prime ...	60 " 65	Hungarian, prime to choice ...	60 " 75		



FARM SEEDS.

PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION.

CLOVER.

Per Bushel.

Recleaned Medium ..	\$3 50 @ \$3 75
Recleaned Mammoth	3 75 " 4 00
Alsike	5 00 " 5 50
Alfalfa	4 50 " 5 00
White Dutch	8 00 " 9 00
Crimson, extra quality	3 50 " 3 75

GRASS SEEDS.

Choice Timothy	1 75 " 1 80
Prime Timothy	1 60 " 1 70
Orchard Grass	1 75 "
Red Top, fair to good	75 " 80
Red Top, choice	1 00 " 1 25
Kentucky Blue Grass	1 00 " 1 25
Canadian Blue Grass.	90 " 1 00
English Blue Grass ..	1 00 "
Fancy Mixed Lawn	Per Lb.
Grass	25

MISCELLANEOUS SEEDS.

Per Bushel.

Amber Sugar Cane ..	\$0 80 @ \$0 85
Orange Sugar Cane ..	80 " 85
Evergreen Broom Corn	85 " 90
Tennessee Broom Corn	85 " 90

Per Lb.

Kaffir Corn, Red	\$0 02
Kaffir Corn, White	02
Kaffir Corn, per 100 lbs	1 50
Spurray	08
Spurray, per 100 lbs	7 00
Rape Dwarf Essex	10
Rape Dwarf Essex, per 100 lbs.	7 50
Wild Rice	20
Wild Rice, per 100 lbs	15 00

Per Bu.

Flax	\$1 00 @ \$1 25
Spring Vetches	3 00 " 3 50



RED COB ENSILAGE.

GRASS SEED MIXTURES.

FOR THE MEADOW AND PASTURE.

There are many good articles written up every year on the value of grass mixtures for permanent meadows and pastures. It is an undisputed fact that there is not enough attention given to grass mixtures. Those who have tried the experiment are delighted with the good results

obtained. There are suitable grasses for different soils, which flourish while the old method fails. Some grasses do better on cold, wet soils, and some are more suitable for high, dry soils; some mature too early and others too late. In consideration of the great importance of sowing the seed that is best adapted to the conditions and soil, we give you below the required amount of mixed grasses which we consider suitable for an acre of ground.

Mixture Grass Seed for Meadow or Pasture.

Quantity Required for One Acre.

WET COLD LAND.

Red Top	lbs. 3
Orchard Grass	" 3
Timothy	" 5
Red Clover	" 1
Alsike	" 1
Tall Meadow Oat Grass	" 1
Tall Fescue	" 1
Meadow Fescue	" 1
Perennial Rye Grass	" 2
Meadow Soft Grass	" 1
Creeping Bent Grass	" 1

20 lbs., Price, \$2.25

HIGH DRY LAND.

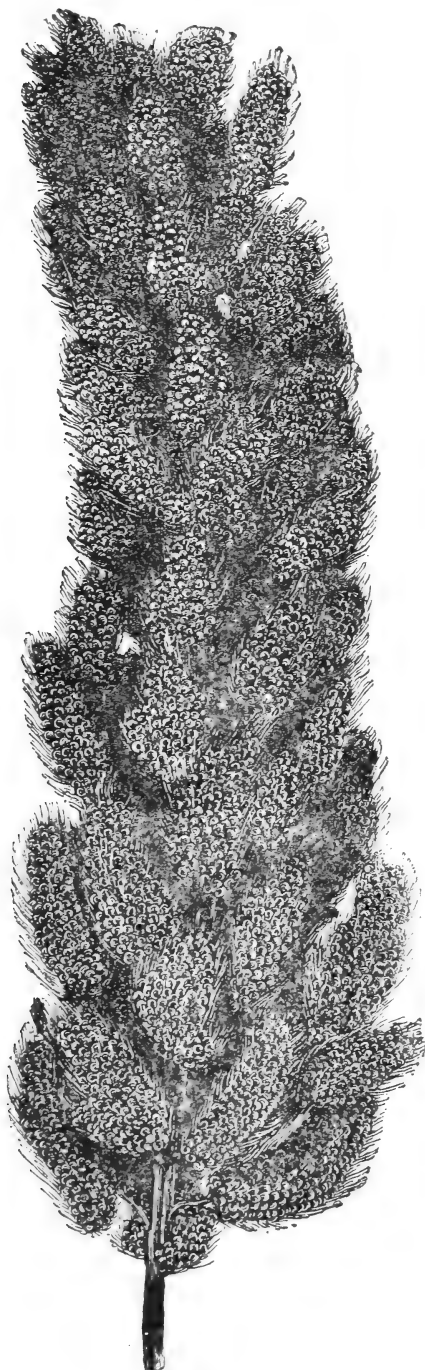
Timothy	lbs. 6
Red Top	" 2
Orchard Grass	" 4
Tall Meadow Oat Grass ..	" 2
Meadow Brome Grass	" 1
Crested Dog's Tail	" 1/2
Hard Fescue	" 1
Sheep Fescue	" 1
Meadow Soft Grass	" 1
Red Clover	" 1
White Clover	" 1/2

20 lbs., Price, \$2.25.

GOOD LAND—Neither too Wet nor too Dry.

Timothy	lbs. 8
Red Clover	" 1
Alsike Clover	" 1
Red Top	" 2
Orchard Grass	" 2
Meadow Fox Tail	" 1
Perennial Sweet Vernal	" 1
Tall Meadow Oat Grass	" 1
Perennial Rye Grass	" 1
Sheep Fescue	" 1
Hard Fescue	" 1

20 lbs., Price, \$2.50.



TRUE SOUTHERN GERMAN MILLET.

VALUABLE TABLE.

Seed Requisite to Produce a given number of Plants and sow a given amount of ground.

	Quantity per acre.		Quantity per acre.
Artichokes, 1 oz. to 500 plants.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Kale, 1 oz. to 3000 plants.....	4 oz.
Asparagus, 1 oz. to 200 plants.....	5 lbs.	Kohl-Rabi, 1 oz. to 200 feet of drill.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Barley.....	$2\frac{1}{2}$ bu.	Leek, 1 oz. to 250 feet of drill.....	4 lbs.
Beans, dwarf, 1 qt. to 150 feet of drill.....	1 bu.	Lettuce, 1 oz. to 250 feet of drill.....	3 lbs.
Beans, pole, 1 quart to 200 hills.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ bu.	Martynia, 1 oz. to 50 feet of drill.....	10 lbs.
Beet, garden, 1 oz. to 100 feet of drill.....	10 lbs.	Melon, Musk, 1 oz. to 100 hills.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Beet, Mangel, 1 oz. to 150 feet of drill.....	6 lbs.	Melon, Water, 1 oz. to 25 hills.....	$2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Broccoli, 1 oz. to 3000 plants.....	5 oz.	Nasturtium, 1 oz. to 50 feet of drill.....	10 lbs.
Broom Corn.....	10 lbs.	Oats.....	$2\frac{1}{2}$ bu.
Brussels Sprouts, 1 oz. to 3000 plants.....	5 oz.	Okra, 1 oz. to 50 feet of drill.....	10 lbs.
Buckwheat.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ bu.	Onion Seed, 1 oz. to 200 feet of drill.....	5 lbs.
Cabbage, 1 oz. to 3000 plants.....	5 oz.	Onion Seed, for sets.....	50 lbs.
Carrots, 1 oz. to 250 feet of drill.....	$2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Onion Sets, 1 quart to 20 feet of drill.....	8 bu.
Cauliflower, 1 oz. to 3000 plants.....	5 oz.	Parsnips, 1 oz. to 250 feet of drill.....	5 lbs.
Celery, 1 oz. to 10,000 plants.....	4 oz.	Parsley, 1 oz. to 250 feet of drill.....	8 lbs.
Clover, Alsike and White Dutch.....	6 lbs.	Peas, garden, 1 quart to 150 feet of drill.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ bu.
Clover, Lucerne, Large Red and Crimson Trefoil.....	8 lbs.	Peas, field.....	$2\frac{1}{2}$ bu.
Clover, Medium.....	10 lbs.	Pepper, 1 oz. to 1500 plants.....	4 oz.
Collards, 1 oz. to 2500 plants.....	6 oz.	Potatoes.....	8 bu.
Corn, sweet, 1 quart to 500 hills.....	8 qts.	Pumpkin, 1 quart to 300 hills.....	4 qts.
Cress, 1 oz. to 150 feet of drill.....	8 lbs.	Radish, 1 oz. to 150 feet of drill.....	8 lbs.
Cucumber, 1 oz. to 80 hills.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Rye.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ bu.
Egg Plant, 1 oz. to 2000 plants.....	3 oz.	Salsify, 1 oz. to 60 feet of drill.....	8 lbs.
Endive, 1 oz. to 300 feet of drill.....	3 lbs.	Spinach, 1 oz. to 150 feet of drill.....	10 lbs.
Flax, broadcast.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ bu.	Summer Savory, 1 oz. to 500 feet of drill.....	2 lbs.
Garlic, bulbs, 1 lb. to 10 feet of drill.....	$2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Squash, summer, 1 oz. to 40 hills.....	3 lbs.
Gourd, 1 oz. to 25 hills.....	2 bu.	Squash, winter, 1 oz. to 10 hills.....	2 lbs.
Grass, Blue Kentucky.....	1 bu.	Tomato, 1 oz. to 3000 plants.....	3 oz.
" Blue English.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ bu.	Tobacco, 1 oz. to 5000 plants.....	2 oz.
" Hungarian and Millet.....	3 bu.	Turnips, 1 oz. to 250 feet of drill.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
" Mixed Lawn.....	2 bu.	Timothy.....	15 lbs.
" Orchard, Perennial Rye, Red Top, Fowl Meadow and Wood Meadow.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ bu.	Vetches.....	2 bu.
Hemp.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ bu.	Wheat.....	1 to 2 bu.

Number of Plants or Trees to the Acre at given distances.

Dis. apart.	No. Plants.	Dis. apart.	No. Plants.	Dis. apart.	No. Plants.	Dis. apart.	No. Plants.
$\frac{1}{2}$ foot.....	174,240	3 feet by 3 feet.....	4,840	6 feet.....	1,210	12 feet.....	302
1 ".....	43,560	4 " " 1 foot.....	10,888	7 ".....	884	15 ".....	193
$1\frac{1}{2}$ ".....	19,360	4 " " 2 feet.....	5,444	8 ".....	680	18 ".....	134
2 ".....	10,880	4 " " 3 ".....	3,629	9 ".....	573	20 ".....	108
$2\frac{1}{2}$ ".....	6,969	5 " " 4 ".....	2,722	10 ".....	435	25 ".....	69
3 " by 1 foot.....	14,520	5 " " 5 ".....	1,742	11 ".....	360	30 ".....	49
3 " by 2 feet.....	7,260						

LAWN GRASS.

How to Make a New Lawn from Seed.

In preparing the ground for a new lawn, great care should be taken in securing proper soil, and a mixture of sandy loam and clay we consider the best for a substantial foundation. After the surface is leveled off, the ground should be well rolled or trod down with the feet, the seed should then be sown and raked over lightly with a hand rake, after which it should be well rolled. To obtain the best results, four bushels of grass seed should be sown to an acre. For small plats five quarts should be used to six rods of ground, or about one quart to the square rod. By sowing thick you gain in one season what you would in two seasons by using the seed sparingly. The cost of making a new lawn from seed is in preparing the soil, the cost of the seed being a small figure. Seed should be sown early in the spring, as soon as danger of hard frost is over, and the ground should be sprinkled constantly during the hot summer months. As soon as the new grass is tall enough to cut with a mower, it is a good idea to cut the new grass often. In this way it throws the strength into the roots. If care is taken in making a new lawn it is possible to have a fairly good showing in one season. Some of the very best lawns are obtained from seeding. The cost of making a new lawn from seed is very little compared with sodding, but those attempting it must have patience and not expect to get a solid turf of grass in a couple of months. Very often a remark is made, that, after sowing a plat of land with grass seed, there is nothing comes up but weeds. To explain this we can only say that it is impossible to keep the weeds from growing, and that they will make a bigger showing in a short time than the grass, and it will look to the observer as though the lawn was nothing but weeds. We have actually known weeds to grow in a solid bank of gravel which was taken from the bottom of a well. Therefore, if you attempt to make a lawn from seed, you must not be disappointed when you see the ground smothered with weeds a few weeks after you have prepared the soil. Weeds, however, are not an injury to the young grass, in fact, they are a protection. After the grass is once well started and the mower has been over it a few times, the weeds soon disappear and they are seen no more.

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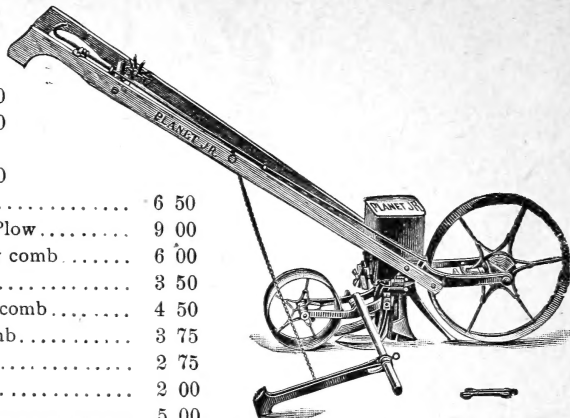
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PLANET JR. HILL DROPPING DRILL.

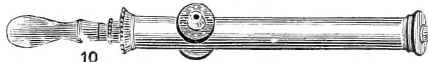
Small Tools and Brass Syringes.

We show in the illustrations a few small tools we keep in stock. Many other tools are kept by us, such as Putty Bulbs, Grape Shears, Pruning Knives, Thermometers, etc.

The prices named are net. No discount.



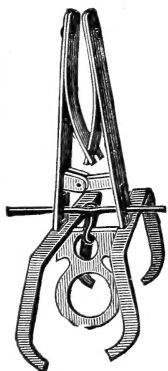
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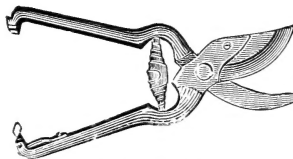
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We carry a large line of garden requisites, small tools, etc., which space will not permit us to list.

• The Free-Seed Fraud •



THE PERSISTENCE of evil is one of the most perplexing things in everyday philosophy. Theoretically, good is the only saving quality. There must be some virtue in a thing, or else it will either be placed in the outlawed category of sin and crime or will perish utterly. Yet now and again there crops up something which has not a single redeeming feature and which is in every detail actively and aggressively evil, but which, nevertheless, abides and flourishes and enjoys reputable habitation. The example in present point is the old familiar free-seed fraud—the gratuitous distribution of seeds by the Government. It is an ancient swindle. It has been exposed and denounced innumerable times. It has no friends worthy of consideration. Not one word is to be spoken in its favor. Yet it sticks in its place like some Old Man of the Sea, a fraud and a burden, but seemingly immortal.

The original objects of it were good. They were to introduce new varieties of plants to popular use and to secure reports upon their value for official and public information. But there is not now and for many years has not been the slightest attempt at or pretense of fulfillment of these aims; or, if there be any such attempt, it is found in its very inception to be in vain. The Government does not, as a rule, import or otherwise secure new varieties. It simply contracts with some firms to furnish each year so many tons of seeds of the ordinary varieties, which that firm regularly keeps in stock and which that firm would sell to its patrons at retail if the Government did not buy them at wholesale. In the list of seeds called for by the Government for its next annual distribution there are no novelties, nor any which the farmer could not get by honest purchase from some reputable seedsman. Nor is the other object less neglected. A good authority on this point was General Le Duc, formerly head of the Agricultural Bureau, and thus chief distributor of seeds, and he declared that, in return for all the thousands of dollars' worth of seeds given away yearly by the Government—at the expense of the taxpayers of the country—"not a dozen reports have ever been made that have been available by the Department as data."

Nor is the system to be credited with good in any other respect, or with anything that should commend it to favor. Farmers and gardeners do not want it. They do not care to pose as paupers begging supplies from the Government. They know, moreover, by bitter experience, that the seeds which they get for nothing are apt to be worth little more than they cost; either they are of inferior or damaged quality, or they are not suited to their soil or climate, or else they are of varieties which they do not desire. The seedsmen of the country, who have done an inestimably great work for the advancement of farming and gardening interests and are entitled to much consideration, do not want it; even the firms that get the contracts for furnishing the seeds to the Government do not want it, for it interferes with and demoralizes legitimate trade. Nor is it conceivable that Congressmen want to maintain a system which imposes great burdens upon them and which savors so strongly of petty bribery with public funds.

Thus devoid of redeeming virtues and of supporting advocacy, the system is positively, as well as negatively, bad. As already indicated, its tendency is to develop a spirit of dependence and semi-pauperism among its reputed beneficiaries. It leads men not to select intelligently such seeds as they want and such as are adapted to their uses, but to accept ignorantly and carelessly any that are given to them, with the result of poor crops and unsatisfactory returns for their labor; so that, instead of promoting, the system actually injures agricultural interests. It imposes no small burden upon the Congressmen through whom the actual distribution is effected, and the only use it is to them is to serve as a system of bribery or of purchase of votes. If a Congressman wants to give seeds away in order to please his constituents and secure their votes for his re-election, why should he not ask for a direct appropriation of money, in bills of convenient denominations, for the same purpose? The effect of the system upon the seedsmen's industry is obvious. More than one seedsman has actually been ruined by it. And certainly if the seedsmen do not ask any special favors from the Government, they have a right to expect that the Government will not deliberately injure them. Finally, it works a great wrong to the whole Nation, by using public money for the supposed benefit of a favored few. It is no more just or logical to supply the farmer with free seeds than it would be to give the carpenter free nails or the book-keeper free pens and ink. If, as the Department of Agriculture itself declares, "a careful review of the Department reports during a decade, in which over a million dollars were expended for free-seed distribution, fails to reveal a single instance of benefit to agriculture attributable to this distribution," what possible justification can there be of the perpetuation of the system?

1898
Alfred J. Brown
Seed Co.,
Growers and Merchants
Grand Rapids.
Mich. }